

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the average pore diameter in the production of a porous body containing comprising a fibrous apatite/collagen composite, said porous body being produced by:

gelating a dispersion comprising said fibrous apatite/collagen composite, collagen and water[[,]];

freeze-drying the resultant gel to form a porous body[[,]] ; and

cross-linking the collagen in said porous body[[,]] ;

wherein the average pore diameter of the porous body is controlled by the solidification time of said gel in said freezing step determining the solidification time for producing said porous body with respect to a desired average pore diameter of said porous body from a relationship between the solidification time and the average pore diameter, and determining the freezing-environment temperature for producing said porous body from a relationship between the freezing-environment temperature and the solidification time.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method for controlling the average pore diameter according to claim 1, wherein the temperature for keeping said gel for freezing is -100°C to 0°C.

4. (Cancelled)